

WEST NILE VIRUS / EEE

The 2011 mosquito season began dry and ended wet. Dry summers favor the occurrence of West Nile Virus (WNV) over Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). There were nine WNV mosquito batches found in Brentwood, Portsmouth Nashua, Manchester and Keene. No EEE was found in the state during 2011.

Dragon has identified 147 larval mosquito habitats in the Town of Newton. Crews checked larval habitats 281 times throughout the season. There were 58 sites requiring treatment to eliminate mosquito larvae. In addition, 124 catch basin treatments were made to combat disease carrying mosquitoes. Flying adult mosquitoes were monitored at four locations throughout town. Nearly 5800 mosquitoes were collected in light traps, identified to species, and select species were sent to the State Lab to be tested for diseases. No mosquitoes collected in Newton tested positive for disease in 2011. Spraying to control adult mosquitoes was not conducted in Newton last season.

The proposed 2012 Mosquito Control plan for Newton includes trapping mosquitoes for disease testing, sampling wetlands for larval mosquito activity, larviciding where mosquito larvae are found, efficacy monitoring, and emergency spraying when a public health threat exists. The control program begins in April when mosquito larvae are found in stagnant water such as red maple and cedar swamps, salt marshes, ditches, and woodland pools. Trapping adult mosquitoes begins in July. The mosquito control program ends in late September or early October when temperatures drop and daylight diminishes.

Homeowners can reduce the number of mosquitoes in their yard by emptying any outdoor containers that hold standing water such as buckets, trash barrels, and boats. Tires collect enough water for mosquitoes to survive. It is also a good idea to change the water in bird baths every two or three days.

If you're new in town and do not want your property treated for mosquitoes, then a written request is needed. Please send a letter to Dragon Mosquito Control, P.O. Box 46, Stratham, NH 03885. Be sure to include your name, physical address, phone number, and a description of your property with boundaries. Otherwise, your property may be treated. Anyone who sent a written request in 2011 may contact the office to reaffirm your request. Inquiries may be sent to info@dragonmosquito.com or call the office at 734-4144. You may call or email our office for assistance regarding mosquitoes, the insecticides we use, when we plan to spray, or questions about EEE or WNV. Check out our web site: www.dragonmosquito.com where you can request a larval survey, sign up for email alerts or follow us on Twitter.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dragon Mosquito Control, Inc.